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Panther Jailed for Refusing to Testify

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NEW HAVEN, Conn.—One of 14 Black Panthers charged with murdering a fellow Panther was granted immunity from prosecution Wednesday, but was still given a six-month jail term for contempt of court when she refused to testify.

Frances Carter, 20, state secretary of the Panthers, refused to answer questions at a pretrial hearing on grounds that she might incriminate herself and "implicate others."

Miss Carter, freed on bail only two days ago, was charged along with 13 other Panthers in the torture-slaying of Alex Rackley, 24, a New York City Panther, who, police say, was kidnaped last May 18 in New York City and killed after an alleged "kangaroo trial" in New Haven.

Three Panthers have already pleaded guilty, including George Sands Jr., 23, who implicated Black Panther leader Bobby G. Seale in the case.

Seale, who Sands said ordered Rackley's death, is now fighting extradition from California on charges of murder and kidnaping.

At Wednesday's pretrial hearing, State's Atty. Arnold Markle, acting on a three-month-old state immunity statute, dropped all charges against Miss Carter as Superior Court Judge Harold M. Mulvey waived the woman's right to refuse to testify.

Miss Carter said her testimony might be used to "implicate" her "sisters and brothers."

Miss Carter, interviewed later, said her stance was a "show of solidarity" with the other defendants, one of whom is a sister.